

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Miami-Dade County Public Library System (MDPLS) provides public library services reflecting the informational, educational, and recreational needs of our community.

As part of the Miami-Dade County's Recreation and Culture strategic area, MDPLS provides library services to one of the largest and most diverse populations in the United States. More than 2,000,000 residents of the Miami-Dade County Library District enjoy access to a collection of nearly 4,000,000 items in a wide variety of formats and languages and a state-of-the-art computer system and public computer workstations, including laptops, with full Internet access for public use. The MDPLS operates a Main Library, 48 regional libraries and neighborhood branches, and two bookmobiles.

Every year, as part of the County's Strategic Plan and budget process, MDPLS identifies its most important activities during the current and upcoming fiscal year and develops a business plan. The business plan allows the department to prioritize its activities and provides a roadmap for the budget process. Please refer to section FG3 Library Department Business Plan 2013-2014 and Miami-Dade Strategic Area: Recreation and Culture Plan.

The Miami-Dade Public Library System's funding model is a Special Taxing District. By definition a special taxing district is a geographic area in which a particular service is provided exclusively to residents of that area. The Library Taxing District includes all municipalities and UMSA except for Bal Harbor, Bay Harbor Islands, Hialeah, Miami Shores, North Miami, North Miami Beach, and Surfside. The Library's special taxing district provides 94% of the Library revenues; the other funds are made up of State Aid, Fines and Fees, and other miscellaneous revenues including grant funding. The current Library Millage rate or rate of taxation for the Library Taxing District is .1725. In other words, a property valued at \$100,000 would yield \$17.25 in taxes for the Library Taxing District. Please refer to section FG4 Library Funding Models for a listing of other funding models.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 the Library's Adopted Budget of \$50.5 million includes revenues of \$29.5 million in property taxes (ad valorem), \$1.5 million in state aid, \$647,000 from fees/fines and miscellaneous revenues and \$18.8 million in reserves. Please note, that the Library budget reserves will be depleted by the year-end of FY 2013-14. Please refer to section FG5 Budget Summary that includes a chart of Operating Costs per Branch.

Public libraries are service centric institutions and this focus is paramount in their business approach. Library service models reflect the organization's approach and are affected by staffing levels, organizational structures, and service delivery models. Please refer to section FG6 Service Model.

There are many trends affecting public libraries and their services. MDPLS conducted a study of these trends and based on its findings developed a position paper. Please refer to section S8 Beyond 2014 - A Position Paper.